

Application No.10/693,087
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:

a casing defining a cavity; ~~containing~~

a length of flexible tubing arranged substantially in said cavity and having a front end portion situated outside of said cavity and a rear end portion arranged in said cavity;

an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said tubing therethrough; and

first closing means arranged in connection with said front end portion of said tubing for forming pre-forming a closure at ~~[[a]]~~ said front end portion of said tubing outside of said cavity prior to insertion of waste into said tubing and in order to create a waste receiver without tying of said front end portion of said tubing such that ~~a bag is formed by~~ said tubing ~~into which a~~ is capable of receiving waste ~~package can be inserted~~ only after formation of said closure by said first closing means.

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2. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said first closing means comprises a metal clip or clasp attached to said front end portion of said tubing.

3. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said first closing means comprises a heat seal at said front end portion of said tubing.

4. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said first closing means comprises stitches such that said front end portion of said tubing is sewn closed.

5. (Original) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said casing includes opposed substantially cylindrical inner and outer walls and an annular lower wall extending between said inner and outer walls, said ring-shaped opening being defined between an inner edge of said cover and said inner wall.

6. (Original) The cartridge of claim 5, wherein said casing further includes a flange extending outward from said outer wall and attached to a lower surface of said cover.

7. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said cover is detachably connected to said casing to enable

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insertion of a replacement length of tubing ~~in said casing~~ into said cavity.

8. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim 1, further comprising second closing means arranged in connection with said casing and said cover for closing and sealing ~~[[a]]~~ said rear end portion of said tubing.

9. (Original) The cartridge of claim 8, wherein said second closing means comprises score lines arranged on said cover to enable said cover to be folded about said score lines, attachment means arranged on said cover for attaching folded parts of said cover to one another, and slits arranged through said casing in alignment with said score lines.

10. (Original) The cartridge of claim 9, wherein said attachment means comprises hook and loop fasteners.

11. (Original) The cartridge of claim 9, wherein said attachment means comprises a tie and clasp stamped into said cover.

12. (Original) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said cover is made of fibrous material.

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13. (Original) The cartridge of claim 1, wherein said cartridge includes at least one flange adapted to be received between tabs formed on the waste disposal device to hold the cartridge in position relative to the waste disposal device.

14. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:

a casing defining a cavity; ~~containing~~

a length of flexible tubing arranged substantially in said cavity and having a front end portion situated outside of said cavity and a rear end portion arranged in said cavity;

an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said tubing therethrough; and

first closing means arranged in connection with said casing and said cover for closing and sealing ~~[[a]]~~ said rear end portion of said tubing, said first closing means comprising a weakened portion formed on said cover such that a part of said cover on one side of said weakened portion is foldable about said weakened portion onto another part of said cover on an opposite side of said weakened portion.

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15. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 14, wherein said weakened portion comprises score lines, said first closing means further comprising attachment means arranged on said cover for attaching folded parts of said cover to one another, and slits arranged through said casing in alignment with said score lines.

16. (Original) The cartridge of claim 15, wherein said attachment means comprises hook and loop fasteners.

17. (Original) The cartridge of claim 15, wherein said attachment means comprises a tie and clasp stamped into said cover.

18. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim 15, wherein said casing includes opposed substantially cylindrical inner and outer walls and an annular lower wall extending between said inner and outer walls, said ring-shaped opening being defined between an inner edge of said cover and said inner wall, said score lines being arranged through said inner, outer and lower ~~wall~~ walls of said casing.

19. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:

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a casing defining a cavity; ~~containing~~
a length of flexible tubing arranged substantially in said
cavity; and

an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially
cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is
defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said
tubing therethrough;

said casing being made of a plastic material and said cover
being made of cardboard.

20. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 1,
wherein said cover is made of cardboard.

21. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 8,
wherein said second closing means comprises a weakened portion
formed on said cover such that a part of said cover on one side
of said weakened portion is foldable about said weakened portion
onto another part of said cover on an opposite side of said
weakened portion.

22. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for a waste disposal
device, comprising:

a casing defining a cavity; ~~containing~~

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a length of flexible tubing arranged substantially in said cavity and having a front end portion situated outside of said cavity and a rear end portion arranged in said cavity;

an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said tubing therethrough; and

first closing means arranged in connection with said front end portion of said tubing for closing a pre-forming a closure at said front end portion of said tubing outside of said cavity prior to insertion of waste into said tubing and in order to create a waste receiver such that a bag is formed by said tubing into which a is capable of receiving waste package is insertable only after formation of said closure by said first closing means,

said closing means being selected from the group consisting of a metal clip or clasp attached to said front end portion of said tubing, a heat seal at said front end portion of said tubing and stitches which sew said front end portion of said tubing closed.

23. (Currently Amended) A cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:

a casing defining a cavity;

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a length of flexible tubing contained in said cavity, said tubing having a front end and a rear end and defining [[an]] a continuous elongate passage extending fully between said front end and said rear end, said tubing further including lines of depressions situated between said front end and said rear end and extending entirely across a circumference of said tubing to enable said tubing to be cleanly torn about each of said lines while forming open ends of said tubing on both sides of said line; and

an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said tubing therethrough.

24. (New) A cartridge for a waste disposal device, comprising:

a casing defining a cavity;

a length of flexible tubing arranged substantially in said cavity; and

an annular cover connected to said casing to substantially cover said cavity and arranged such that a ring-shaped opening is defined between said cover and said casing for passage of said tubing therethrough;

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said cover being attached to said casing to enable said cover to at least partially separate from said casing to expose said cavity and enable insertion of a replacement length of tubing into said exposed cavity.

25. (New) The cartridge of claim 24, further comprising attachment means for removably attaching said cover to said casing.

26. (New) The cartridge of claim 24, wherein said cover is removably attached to said casing with hook and loop fasteners.

27. (New) A method for using a cartridge in a waste disposal device, comprising:

arranging a first length of flexible tubing substantially in a cavity defined by a casing;

attaching an annular cover to the casing to substantially cover the cavity and define a ring-shaped opening between the cover and the casing for passage of the tubing therethrough; and

when the first length of tubing is exhausted,

exposing the cavity by at least partially separating the cover from the casing;

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inserting a second, replacement length of tubing into
the exposed cavity; and then
re-attaching the cover to the casing.